

Application Ser. No. 09/900,779  
Attorney Docket No. 12177/21101

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Current amended) A machine-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions to perform a method of estimating a life of a product, the method comprising:

determining accelerated stress testing data for the product using the relationship  $t_F = AF \times \exp(t_A)$ , the accelerated stress testing data representing the response of the product operating in a first environment; and

calculating the mean-time-between-failures (MTBF) for the product operating in a second environment based on the accelerated stress testing data.
2. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein said first environment is more likely than the second environment to cause the product to fail.
3. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein the accelerated stress testing data represents the length of time the product operates in the first environment before the product fails.
4. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein the accelerated stress testing data is derived from a plurality of different stress tests.
5. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 4, wherein the plurality of different stress tests includes a temperature test and a vibrational test.

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6. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, the method further comprising calculating upper and lower confidence limits for the MTBF calculation.
7. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein said accelerated stress testing data is determined at least in part from bill of materials (BOM) information on the product.
8. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein said step of calculating is performed during the design of the product.
9. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein said step of calculating is performed prior to manufacturing the product for commercial use.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein the accelerated stress testing data includes accelerated stress testing data for a previous design of the product.
12. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 11, wherein the accelerated stress testing data for the previous design of the product is derived from stress testing in an environment less likely to cause failure than said first environment.
13. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 11, the method further comprising calculating a change in MTBF from the previous design of the product.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 11, the method further comprising calculating a factor increase or decrease in the life of the product as compared to the life of the previous design of the product.

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16. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 11, wherein the accelerated stress testing data is derived from a plurality of different stress tests.
17. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 16, wherein the different stress tests include a temperature test and a vibrational test.
18. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 11, wherein said step of calculating is performed during the design of the product.
19. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 11, wherein said step of calculating is performed prior to manufacturing the product for commercial use.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions to perform a method of estimating a life of a product, the method comprising:
- determining accelerated stress testing data for the product using the relationship  $t_F = A_F \times \exp(t_A)$ , the accelerated stress testing data representing the response of the product operating in a first environment; and
- calculating the mean-time-between-failures (MTBF) for the product operating in a second environment based on the accelerated stress testing data,
- wherein said first environment is more likely than the second environment to cause the product to fail; and
- wherein the accelerated stress testing data is derived from a plurality of different stress tests.

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22. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions to perform a method of estimating a life of a product, the method comprising:

determining accelerated stress testing data for the product using the relationship  $t_f = AF \times \exp(t_A)$ , the accelerated stress testing data representing the response of the product operating in a first environment; and

calculating the mean-time-between-failures (MTBF) for the product operating in a second environment based on the accelerated stress testing data,

wherein said first environment is more likely than the second environment to cause the product to fail; and

wherein said accelerated stress testing data is determined at least in part from bill of materials (BOM) information on the product.